

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER

Published at Benton, Mo., every SATURDAY BY PHIL A. HAFNER.
OFFICIAL PAPER OF SCOTT COUNTY.
Subscription, \$1.00 Per Year.

DIRECT LEGISLATION.

In the Democratic platform is a plank pledging direct legislation for Missouri. While the KICKER is convinced that the plank was only inserted to catch votes, yet we hope to see every citizen and every newspaper, no matter of what political faith, urge upon the legislature the necessity of such an amendment to our constitution.

Direct legislation means the rule of the people. It means that the people can, by petition, demand the enactment of any law they desire, and it also means that they can, by their votes, reject any objectionable law.

It means the elimination of the lobbyist from the legislative halls. Business interests are not going to pay large sums of money to have certain measures enacted into law when they know that the people have the power to overthrow the enactment.

But one thing must not be forgotten—the imperative mandate. Let us not make the same mistake as did the people of Illinois. In that state the people adopted direct legislation by an overwhelming vote, but neglected the imperative mandate, and the law is practically ineffective. This is only another evidence of the shrewd work of the corporation "lawyer."

In Illinois the people have the right to demand or reject any legislation, but there it stops. They have no way of enforcing their demands or rejections. The money power controls the nominating conventions and elections, and the men selected to office ignore the demands or rejections of the people.

The imperative mandate means the immediate forfeiture of office of any official who disregards the commands of the people.

Let not this important question be neglected. And we earnestly urge that the press of Southeast Missouri immediately take the matter up.

BOODLER KELLY RETURNS.

Chas. F. Kelly, the much wanted St. Louis hoodler, has returned to this country—but not until after it was too late for him to be of service to Circuit Attorney Folk in indicting the rich rascals who put up the \$47,500 to Ed. Butler in the lighting scandal.

On November 28 Chas. F. Kelly landed at New York from Europe. On November 28 the statute of limitation barred any prosecution of the men who put up the money.

At the time of the transaction Kelly was speaker of the House of Delegates and chief manipulator of the house combine. He held the secret that would have made some "respectable" citizens of St. Louis appear as criminals. But when the grand jury called for Kelly, Kelly was missing.

Kelly is just an ordinary man—a printer. He was considered "broke" at the time of his departure. Yet, after making a tour of some ten thousand miles through Canada and Europe he was arrested in New York last week with \$3000 in cash on his person. Who furnished the boodle?

And that is not the most significant circumstance of his return. On the same ship that brought Kelly were also Ed. Butler's book-keeper and Ed. Butler's street sprinkling contractor. It is suspected that it was the duty of these men to see that Kelly did not return too quick.

What more? Why, as the ship that bore this remarkable party reached the pier at New York there was Congressman Jim Butler to receive them.

Now figure it out.

In St. Clair county, Mo., in 1870, the county court issued more than \$300,000 in bonds and donated them to the promoters of a railroad that was never built. The bonds were bought by "innocent purchasers" at ten cents on the dollar, and the Federal court says the county must pay the bonds. For years the people of St. Clair county have been careful about the selection of their county judges, and elect men who will lay in jail rather than levy the assessment on the people.

Congress met last Monday and Jim Butler's opponent in the recent election has given notice that he will contest his seat—claiming that ten thousand fraudulent and illegal votes were counted for Butler. If St. Louis jumps on she'll be a "bird" of a world's fair city. To attend the fair one will not only find it necessary to have his pocketbook at home, but his character as well.

No doubt the Bockery-Butler-Cookery legislature will turn heaven north this winter to give the direct legislation and must-own-ship. The platform says it will be so.

REAL HAPPINESS.

What is real happiness if it is not a clear conscience and a happy home? No. Too much of it is a curse. The greatest scandals—the most revolting crimes—are traceable to the families that have more money than they know how to dispose of. The divorce scandals, the inhuman and revolting crimes of every character that you read about in the daily press are only a record of how the rich "enjoy" themselves.

The happiest man on earth should be the man who gets out and raises corn and wheat and hay and hogs and cattle. The world is dependent upon him for food. He should be, and could be, the master of the situation.

But he isn't. He has listened to the politicians until they have legislated him almost out of existence. He exists—but how?

With great economy he can afford a cheap suit of clothes to attend church on Sunday, while his politician can afford a good suit every day.

The pressing work on the farm demands the services of the farmer's children to help get in the crop, while the children of the politician are off attending the State Normal school kept up at the expense of the very farmer who is too poor to allow his own children to attend the district school.

The Normal school is only a fair illustration of how the masses are bunched in other matters. This school is kept up at public expense—every citizen must contribute to its support—yet only those who are financially able have any benefit therefrom.

Every citizen in Scott county must contribute his share toward the support of the State Normal schools—and the entire benefit is reaped by the few families who are able to bear the expense of sending their children.

But the law is constitutional. No class legislation about it. Any tenant farmer has the same right to send his child to the State Normal school as he has to establish a national bank or build a railroad.

All he needs is the "dough."

Monday the Honorable Edward Butler appeared in Judge Ryan's court to sign the bond of Chas. Gutke, a fellow hoodler. The judge informed Mr. Butler that he was legally dead, and that he could not be accepted as bondsman. This decision means that Mr. Butler, while under sentence to the penitentiary, cannot vote, nor can he legally sign checks, deeds or mortgages. Although Mr. Butler may not be entitled to vote in the spring election in St. Louis, yet he will be recognized as the biggest Democrat in that city.

What an exodus of statesmen there would be from Jefferson City if Mr. Folk should be selected governor. What a rush there'd be for Mexico and other foreign lands.

Notice to Taxpayers.

Owing to the large amount of extra work in the collection of taxes, including ditch and road, you are requested to settle at once, as it will be impossible to do all this work in the latter part of December, and I will close my books promptly December 31 and add penalty.

R. L. HARRISON,
Collector of Revenue.

MAKE HIM GOVERNOR.

Joe Folk Would Clean Out the Kitchen at Jeff. City.

Circuit Attorney Folk says he has evidence of boodling at Jefferson City. Let's make him governor so that he can clean out the gang up there. Interviewed by the Kansas City Journal, Mr. Folk said:

"I have no intention of changing my policy. I shall keep right on prosecuting the hoodlers. I don't think I could be elected for another term, for while 99 per cent of the people are honest and want honest government, unfortunately the remaining 1 per cent is perniciously active. The St. Louis Democratic machine is fighting me, and I could not get a delegation for anything from St. Louis."

"It's a strange thing, but political machines in the cities are generally corrupt, while the political organizations in the country are honest. Why, when I went to Columbia to try Ed. Butler there were four members of the Boone county Democratic central committee on the jury. Do you suppose I would let a single member of the St. Louis central committee on a jury in a bribery case?"

"What are your political ambitions?" was asked, not in the hope of securing a direct answer, but Mr. Folk's smile came back, and he said: "I have given no thought to anything of that kind. My only ambition now is to serve out my term and retire to my private practice. I am not a place hunter, and have no time to think about such things."

See that the Kansas City Journal has been kind enough to mention my name in connection with the governorship. I don't see how I could be governor with the machine against me. I could never get a St. Louis delegation for anything if I tried. I believe the people in the country are honest and are for honest government. I'll tell you one thing. If I had a chance I would go after the state hoodlers just as I am going after the city fellows. I am confident I could put some of our statesmen in the penitentiary. I have absolute proof of boodling, and it has been going on for years. The state house ring is full of corruption. There is boodling going on all the time. Of course, I can't go after them, as I am a local official, but should an investigation be made of the state affairs it would rattle the dry bones of state politics just as it has done in St. Louis."

An interesting feature connected with the mentioning of Mr. Folk as a possible candidate for governor is the peculiar law in the state of Missouri which permits the governor to temporarily throw off his administrative robes and become a public prosecutor in any of the criminal courts. Should Mr. Folk receive political preferment at the hands of the state there is little doubt of his preference for the office of governor over that of United

States senator, because of the opportunities in the former office for his favorite occupation of boodle busting.

"I knew in a general way," said Mr. Folk, in recounting the events of his early days in office, "that bribery was rampant in this city. I told the men who nominated me that I didn't want the office, for I felt that if I were elected the task for me would be tremendous. But I was elected and I set about to do my duty as I saw it. After my election I had to prosecute some of those very men who nominated me. Some of them are in the penitentiary, some are fugitives from justice and some are under bond as indicted perjurers and bribe takers. I understood fully that every obstacle would be placed in my path. The system has gone on so long that some of the most influential men in St. Louis were mixed up in the deals."

"I had no idea that corruption was so wide-spread when I began investigating. I confess I have been more successful than I had expected. I have tried six cases and I have had six convictions. There are about twenty other cases in sight and eighteen indictments pending."

The two men arrested last Monday by Marshal Hollingshead near Oran are in Benton jail. On them were found skeleton keys, and they confessed to having entered several stores along the railroad and sold the goods to railroad laborers. As they entered the postoffice at Morley the local authorities are inclined to turn them over to the Federal authorities.

Many of the road crossings along the line of the Gulf road are in very bad condition, and Prosecuting Attorney Kelly authorizes us to announce that if the road commissions of the districts through which the road passes will confer with him the matter will be taken up.

County court meets next Tuesday. The KICKER was in error last week. It is the second Tuesday instead of the second day of December. Go our dates mixed.

George Hofer has leased his farm northeast of Benton to Leo Heuring for five years and will move to Oran soon.

We have an elegant mail service. The local papers left here Friday morning and reached Kelso Wednesday. News is as mailed there Tuesday have not yet reached us. J. C. Walker, of Commerce, braved the rainy weather Tuesday and came to Benton.

The Thanksgiving ball at Oran was well attended and all enjoyed themselves.

Wm. Long, of Morley, had business here Monday. Surrey Arnold is home again.



Just Arrived

At Congleton's

A Fresh Stock of Staple

And Fancy

Groceries for the Holidays!

Seeded Raisins, Currants, Dates, Oranges, Lemons, Cabbage, Potatoes and Onions.

I also have Dry Goods, Furnishings, Notions and fine Line of Winter Shoes. When you are looking for Bargains don't walk around

J. E. CONGLETON, MORLEY, MO.

We are Always Up-to-Date!



AND
If you will call on us you will Find that we are up-to-date in our line of attractive

Holiday Goods.

Our Stock is Fresh!

And we invite Close Inspection.

We have everything that the Holiday trade calls for.

TOYS and TRINKETS

Of every kind. Also articles

Useful as Well as Ornamental.

RUSH & DRURY,

DEALERS IN EVERYTHING, KELSO, MO.



SANTA CLAUS!

Has Established Headquarters With DIRNBERGER & CHITTY,

Where he Has Displayed a Choice Selection of

HOLIDAY GOODS!

Fancy Lamps, Ladies' and Gent's Gold Watches,

Gold Rings, Manicure Sets, Smoker's Sets, Ping-Pong Sets, Crocodile Boards, China and Glassware, and Toys to Burn.

Our Special Line of Rubber Boots and Felt Goods

Will be placed before you at greatly reduced prices.

BARGAINS IN



DRY GOODS, CLOTHING, BOOTS, SHOES and FURNISHINGS.

Also a complete line of CUTLERY & HARDWARE

At prices that will please you.

LADIES!

This is a splendid opportunity to secure

Excellent Dress Goods

At Remarkably Low Prices.



Dirnberger & Chitty, Oran, Mo.

Bring All Your Scrap Iron To N. WITTL, ORAN.

Highest cash price paid for old plows and plow points, wagon tires, and all old scrap iron. Will also buy

Rubber, Copper, Brass, Etc. N. WITTL, ORAN, MO.

DO YOU NEED Finishing Lumber! Split or Sawed Shingles? If so, you had better see Mike Welter, Kelso, Missouri.

R U A Subscriber

TO THE

Scott County KICKER?

It is the only paper in Scott County the utterances of which are not controlled by the tax-dodgers and politicians. THE KICKER

Speaks Right Out in Meetin'.

Every taxpayer should be its patron. It tells the unmuzzled truth.

IT IS THE PEOPLE'S PAPER. Subscribe Now.

YOUR POSTMASTER IS AGENT.

HO, FOR CHRISTMAS!

Nothing Shoddy. Everything Serviceable at

B. F. Earles, Morley.

Novelty and Staple Silver Ware,

Indian Goods, Solid and Gold-Plated Jewelry, Dolls and Toys, Lamps, China-Glass and Queensware.

When looking for Staple Goods, such as double-lined full-sized King Heaters at \$3; Stove Pipe at

10c per joint; No. 2 pump pitchers at \$1 each; galvanized pump pipe at 12c per foot, don't pass me by. Also Lumber, Builders' Material, Furniture, Hardware, Sewing Machines, a car-load of Michigan Salt, Coffins and a Hearse for the Dead. B. F. EARLES, Morley, Mo.